

Material Glossary

Material	Definition
Aggregate	Aggregate is the crushed stone, gravel, and sand used to create concrete.
Appliances	Appliances include refrigerators, washing machines, water heaters, toasters, hair dryers, electric coffee pots, etc.
Bricks	Bricks are produced by firing materials such as clay, kaolin, fire clay, bentonite, or common clay and shale. The majority of the bricks produced in the US are clay.
Corrugated (Cardboard Box)	Corrugated includes virgin and recycled corrugated boxes.
Electronic Media	Electronic media CDs, disks, video tapes, etc.
Electronics	Electronics include TVs, VCRs, DVD players, radios, etc.
Fats, Oils, & Greases	Fats, oils, and greases generated as a result of food preparation.
Fiberboard	Fiberboard is a panel product that consists of wood chips pressed and bonded with a resin. Fiberboard is used primarily to make furniture.
Fly Ash	Fly ash is a byproduct of coal combustion that is used as a cement replacement in concrete.
Food	Food consists of uneaten food and wasted, prepared food from residences, commercial establishments such as grocery stores and restaurants, institutional sources such as school cafeterias, and industrial sources such as factory lunchrooms
High Grade Paper	High grade paper includes letterhead, copier paper, envelopes, and printer and convertor scrap that has gone through the printing process.
Lumber	Lumber is treated wood used for containers, packaging, and building and includes crates, pallets, and dimensional lumber like two by fours.
Magazines and other glossy paper	Magazines and other glossy paper are usually made of shiny, coated paper.
Magazines/Third-class mail	Third Class Mail is now called Standard Mail by the U.S. Postal Service and includes catalogs and other direct bulk mailings. Magazines are made of coated, shiny paper.

Mixed Municipal Solid Waste	Mixed MSW is a general term for all of the waste material typically discarded and collected by collection vehicles.
Mixed Office Paper	Mixed paper from offices includes copy and printer paper, stationary and envelopes, and commercial printing
Mixed Organics	Typically consist of a mixture of yard trimmings, food scraps and other organic material. Note, this is not limited to specialty items labeled "Organic" by the USDA or other authorities.
Mixed Paper	Mixed paper includes almost all printing-writing paper, folding boxes, and most paper packaging.
Mixed Plastics	Mixed plastics are a mixture of recyclable plastics that includes one or more of the following types of plastic: HDPE (high-density polyethylene, or plastic code #2), LDPE (low-density polyethelene, plastic code #4), and/or PET (polyethylene terephthalate, or plastic code #1). Containers and packaging that fall into this category will usually be labeled plastic code #1, #2, or #4 on the bottom.
Mixed Recyclables	Mixed recyclables are a mixture of materials that are typically recycled. This includes but is not limited to: aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, plastic codes #1, #2, and #4, corrugated cardboard, magazines/third-class mail, newspaper, office paper, phonebooks, textbooks, lumber, and medium-density fiberboard.
Mixed Residential Paper	Mixed paper from residences includes the typical mix of papers from residential curbside pick-up (e.g., high-grade office paper, magazines, catalogs, commercial printing, folding cartons, and a small amount of old cardboard containers).
Organics (type unknown)	Typically consist of a mixture of yard trimmings, food scraps and other organic material. Note, this is not limited to specialty items labeled "Organic" by the USDA or other authorities.
Other Ferrous Metals	Other ferrous metals are iron and steel, found in durable goods such as appliances, furniture, and tires.
Other Non-Ferrous Metals	Non-ferrous metals (e.g., aluminum, lead, copper, zinc) are found in durable products such as appliances, consumer electronics, etc.

Plastic (resin unknown)	Plastics are found in appliances, furniture, and containers and packaging, like bags, sacks, and wraps, other packaging, other containers, and soft drink, milk, and water bottles).
Plastic Code #1, PET	PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) is typically labeled plastic code #1 on the bottom of the container. PET is used for soft drink and disposable water bottles, but can also include other containers or packaging.
Plastic Code #2, HDPE	HDPE (high-density polyethylene) is usually labeled plastic code #2 on the bottom of the container, and refers to a plastic used to make bottles for milk, juice, water and laundry products.
Plastic Code #3, PVC/Vinyl	PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is typically labeled plastic code #3 and includes pipes and vinyl, as well as some plastic containers and packaging.
Plastic Code #4, LDPE	LDPE (Low-density polyethylene), usually labeled plastic code #4, is used to manufacture plastic grocery bags and dry cleaning bags. LDPE is also used to manufacture some flexible lids and bottles.
Plastic Code #5, Polypropylene	Polypropylene is typically labeled plastic code #5, and is found in everything from flexible and rigid packaging to fibers and large molded parts for automotive and consumer products.
Plastic Code #6, Polystyrene	Polystyrene is typically labeled plastic code #6 and includes protective packaging, containers, lids, cups, bottles, trays and tumblers.
Rubber	Rubber includes rubber tires from automobiles and trucks, clothing, footwear, gaskets on appliances, furniture, and hot water bottles.
Steel Cans	Steel cans are mostly food cans.
Textiles	Textiles are discarded clothing, furniture, carpets, tires, footwear, sheets and towels.
Wood	Wood Products (dimensional lumber and medium-density fiberboard) include furniture, cabinets and wood packaging (crates, pallets).
Yard Trimmings	Yard trimmings include grass, leaves, and tree and brush trimmings from residential, institutional, and commercial sources.